

From: Elizabeth Eisenmann
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: settlement

I am opposed to the settlement of the Microsoft antitrust suit as is presently proposed.

In the first place, the financial outlay involved in donating using PCs to school system represents a flea bite in comparison with Microsoft's assets. Punishment for a crime is supposed to involve a meaningful penalty.

In the second place, this "donation" will serve to undermine competition further in the education market.

It can hardly escape notice that Apple Computer is the leader in this field at present, largely on the merits of its user friendly features and incentive programs for teachers and students. Microsoft would love nothing better than to drive a wedge into this market with its "free samples." If Microsoft truly wants to benefit underprivileged school systems, let them make a substantial monetary donation and allow the schools to make their own choices.

In the third place, there is NO future incentive in this settlement for Microsoft to behave differently than in the past. This company has not been content to simply capture a huge market share and reap incredible profits. They want it all. This settlement is a politically motivated slap on the wrist, a giveaway, and a disgrace.

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